

**Testimony for 2/24 public hearing-- SUPPORT HB 5344  
(support for animals that are victims of cruelty)**

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Tong, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

Please accept this as my written testimony (for public hearing held on 2/24/16) in SUPPORT of HB 5344, An Act Concerning Support for Animals that are Neglected or Treated Cruelly.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I do vote, and this issue is very important to me. I support HB 5344 because:

Research has established a strong correlation between violent behavior toward humans and violent behavior toward animals. In fact, violence against animals is how it usually starts, with the progression towards humans.

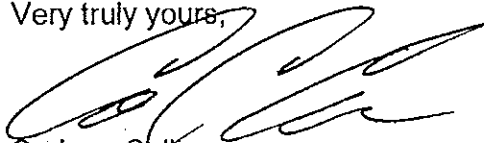
Law enforcement agencies must take violence toward animals seriously, and prosecutions must be encouraged. A disturbing OLR report (2015-R-0262) found that between 2005 and 2015, 80% of animal cruelty offenses were either not prosecuted or dismissed. I find this appalling!

Having court advocates for animals could be done **at no cost to the state** by enlisting volunteer representation for animals from law students and law firms.

And lastly, teaching people to behave with kindness and respect toward animals will only help to build a more humane society.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration.

Very truly yours,



Corinne Collins  
210 Crow Hill Rd.  
Stafford Springs, CT 06076